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SUBJECT Military Depots, Camps, Casernes, Training Centers, Officers' Schools and Artillery "Polygons" of the Central Asian Military District

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1. Military depots in the Soviet Army were divided into eight main classifications:

- (a) Supply depots - these were under the Intendants Service, ie Supply Service (Khoziastvennoye or Intendantskaya Snabzhenie). The supply and medical depots were the only ones not considered secret and not referred to by number. There were two types of supply depots: 1) "prodbaza," ie "voanna-prodovolstvenaya baza," which stored rations for humans and animals and was in charge of a staff officer referred to as "Zavprot," and 2) "oboznoveshevoi sklad," which stored clothing and equipment - but not weapons - for humans and animals and was in charge of a staff officer referred to as "Zavovo."
- (b) Artillery depots (artilleriiskii skladi) - there were two types, both under the jurisdiction of the Artillery: 1) depot storing only dangerous ammunition, which included artillery and mortar shells, poisonous chemical shells, and explosives; and 2) depot storing weapons (such as artillery pieces and infantry weapons) and nondangerous ammunition (such as rifle and machine gun cartridges). The depot always had a repair shop for weapons. Because these depots, as well as other

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military ones, were considered secret, their public designation was merely, for example, "Military Depot No 22" (Voenni Sklad No 22).

- (c) Engineers depot (inzhinerni sklad) - this was under the Engineers and supplied all types of troops with engineering equipment, such as shovels, axes, picks, camouflage items, bridging material, and water supply equipment.
- (d) Communications depot (sklad svyazi) - this was under the Communications Chief of the military district. It supplied all types of troops with communications equipment, such as telephones, wire, radio, and telegraph equipment.
- (e) Tank depot (avtobronitankovi sklad) - this came under the jurisdiction of the Armored Force, or Tank Troops (avtobronitankovikh voisk). It provided all types of troops which used such items as tanks, motor vehicles, and tractors.
- (f) Air force depot (voenno-aviatsionni sklad) - this supplied the army air force with aircraft and bombs.
- (g) Chemical service depot (voenni-khimicheskii sklad) - this stocked various types of poison gas, preventive clothing, gas masks, flame throwers, chemical mortars, and chemical containers.
- (h) Smaller depots were: 1) military maps depot (sklad voenno-topographicheskikh kart) under the topographic section of the military district headquarters and 2) medical supplies depot (voenno-aptechnyi sklad), which stored medicines for humans and horses and came under the chief of the medical service of the military district.

2. I shall provide detailed information mainly on central depots only of the Central Asian military district; these were by far the most important. As this military district was not large, from the viewpoint of number of troops, it had only one depot for each of the main classifications. All of the materials in the above-mentioned depots, even when the materials had been distributed to units, were considered to belong to the military district. [For details on the territory covered by the Central Asian military district, prior to and after World War II, see par 2 of  military depots of this military district quite certain that the locations remain the same at the present time (1954).

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- 3. The "Prodbaza" was on Kulikskaya Chaussée three kilometers southeast from the city limits of Tashkent. It was just beyond the railway freight station. One spur line led to the depot and there branched out into three lines. The "Prodbaza" covered about 16 or 18 hectares and could store a quantity of supplies equivalent to one thousand railway freight cars full of rations. The average freight car had a capacity of one thousand "pudi" (a pud is equivalent to 33½ pounds), or 16 metric tons. The depot had a small mill to make flour; it could handle only about four to five thousand "pudi" of grain per day. A serious handicap was the fact that there was no refrigeration up to mid-1941. The depot was founded in Czarist times and was expanded gradually. Most of the buildings were of sun-dried brick. The chief of the depot was a major. There was a military staff of about 20. In addition, there were civilian workers, but their number varied.
- 4. The military district supply depot for clothing and equipment (voenno-okruzhnoi obobnoveshchevoi sklad) was located on the corner of Stalinskaya Ulitsa and Lenin'skaya Ulitsa in the center of Tashkent. It covered about six or seven hectares, which included a garden. Its capacity was sufficient to store clothing and equipment for approximately 100 thousand persons. Up to 1938, there were only about 30 thousand troops in the whole military district,

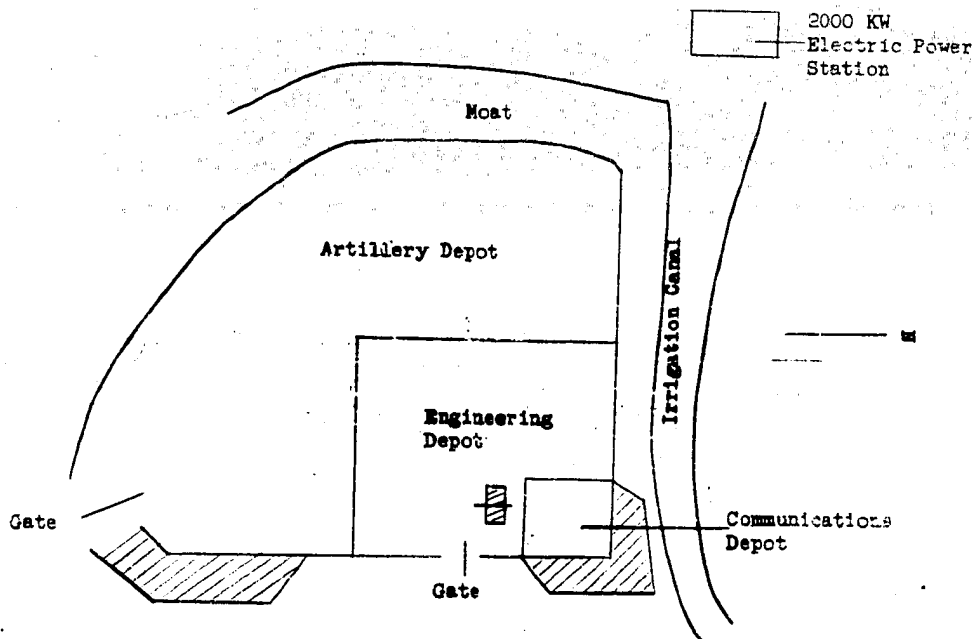
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but there would be many more at the present time. The depot not only had stocks to outfit existing troop units but also stocks for mobilization reserve (mobzapas). This applied to every military depot, and most of the stocks were part of the mobilization reserve. Incidentally, immediately below the military district depot was the regimental depot, where, in practice, most of the mobilization reserves were stored. These were inadequate, however. The buildings of the district supply depot were also of sun-dried brick. There was also a military staff of about 20 men, headed by a major.

5. Military depot No 22 (voenni sklad No 22) was the artillery depot which stored weapons and ~~un~~dangerous ammunition. It was located in a fort in the center of Tashkent. The artillery depot occupied the southern half of the fort, while two other depots used the other half. The rough sketch below gives an idea of the outlines of the fort.



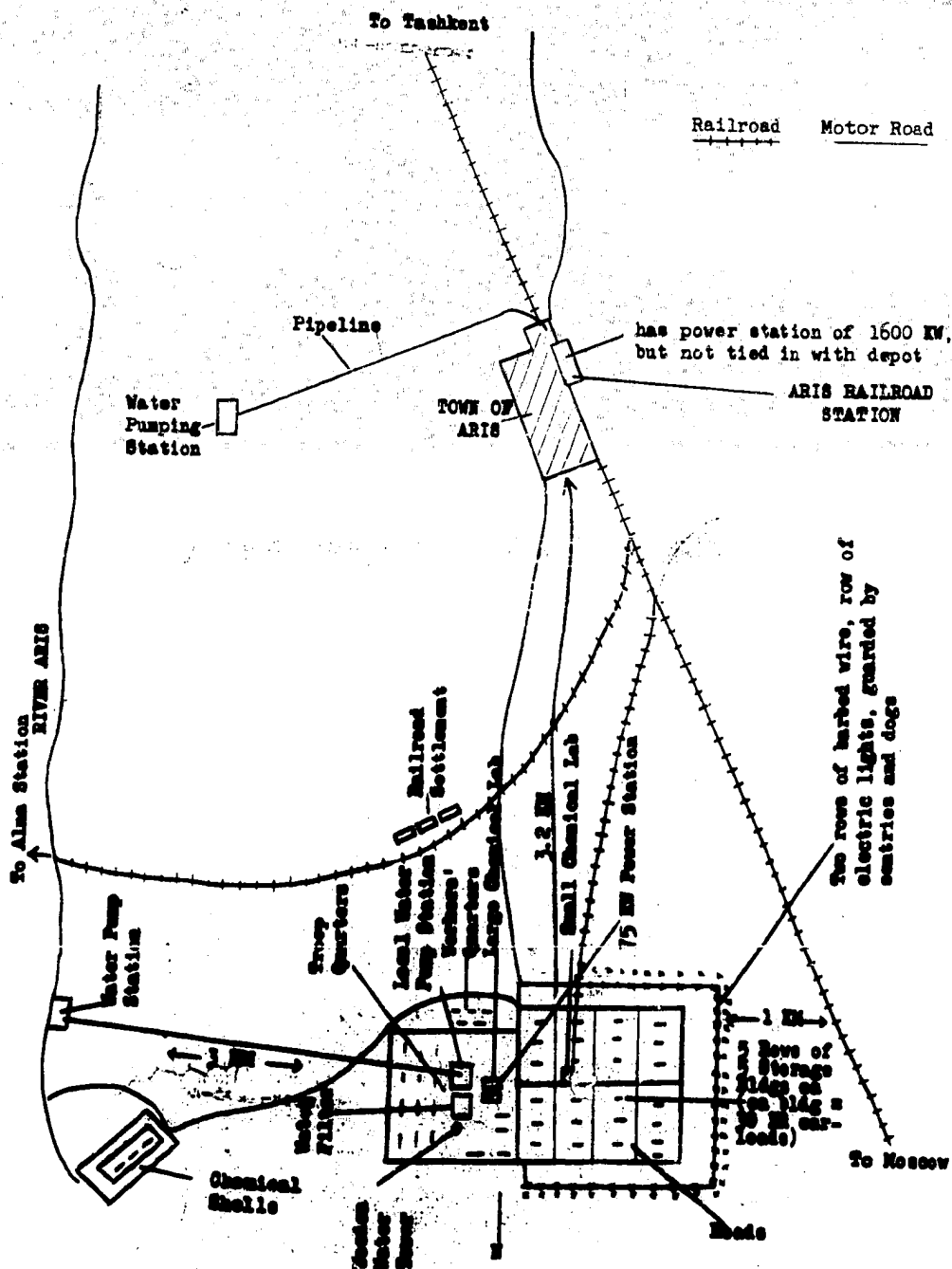
It included a small arms range of 100 meters and one of 300 meters. The area of the fort was about 35 hectares, 20 of which were devoted to the artillery depot. The walls of the fort were of sun-dried brick; in some places there were only dirt breastworks, with a moat. Most of the buildings inside the fort were also of sun-dried brick. There were two corner blockhouse-barracks. Guard Battalion No 8 (Kharaulai battalion No 8) was billeted in one of the barracks. The battalion numbered 800 men and guarded all the depots in Tashkent. A school for junior lieutenants was located in the other barracks. There were 400 students (kursanti). The two barracks were constructed of burnt brick and reinforced concrete. Some of the other buildings inside the fort, such as the one which housed the repair shop for artillery weapons, were also built of burnt brick. This artillery depot stored artillery pieces, infantry weapons, and ~~un~~dangerous ammunition. There was not a large quantity of these items, but it was sufficient for the needs of the military district in peacetime. There was a military staff of about 20, headed by a major, plus about 20-30 civilian workers.

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6. Military depot No 20 was the artillery depot which housed dangerous amount [redacted] it was located three kilometers north of the railway station of Aris, which was 160 kilometers northwest of Tashkent. The sketch below indicates the plan and location of the depot.



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The depot and the quarters for troops covered about 60 hectares. Each depot included an "admingorodok (administrativni gorodok - small town for administrative personnel). A guard battalion of two companies, totalling 400 men, was stationed at this artillery depot. The depot staff (upravleniya sklada) numbered about 45 military men and about 25-30 civilian workers. It was headed by a major, as were all the other depot staffs. There were 25 buildings in the depot, all of them, including the roofs, made of sun-dried brick. They were fireproof, but the roof beams were of wood. In 1938, three buildings for chemical shells were constructed of the same type of brick.

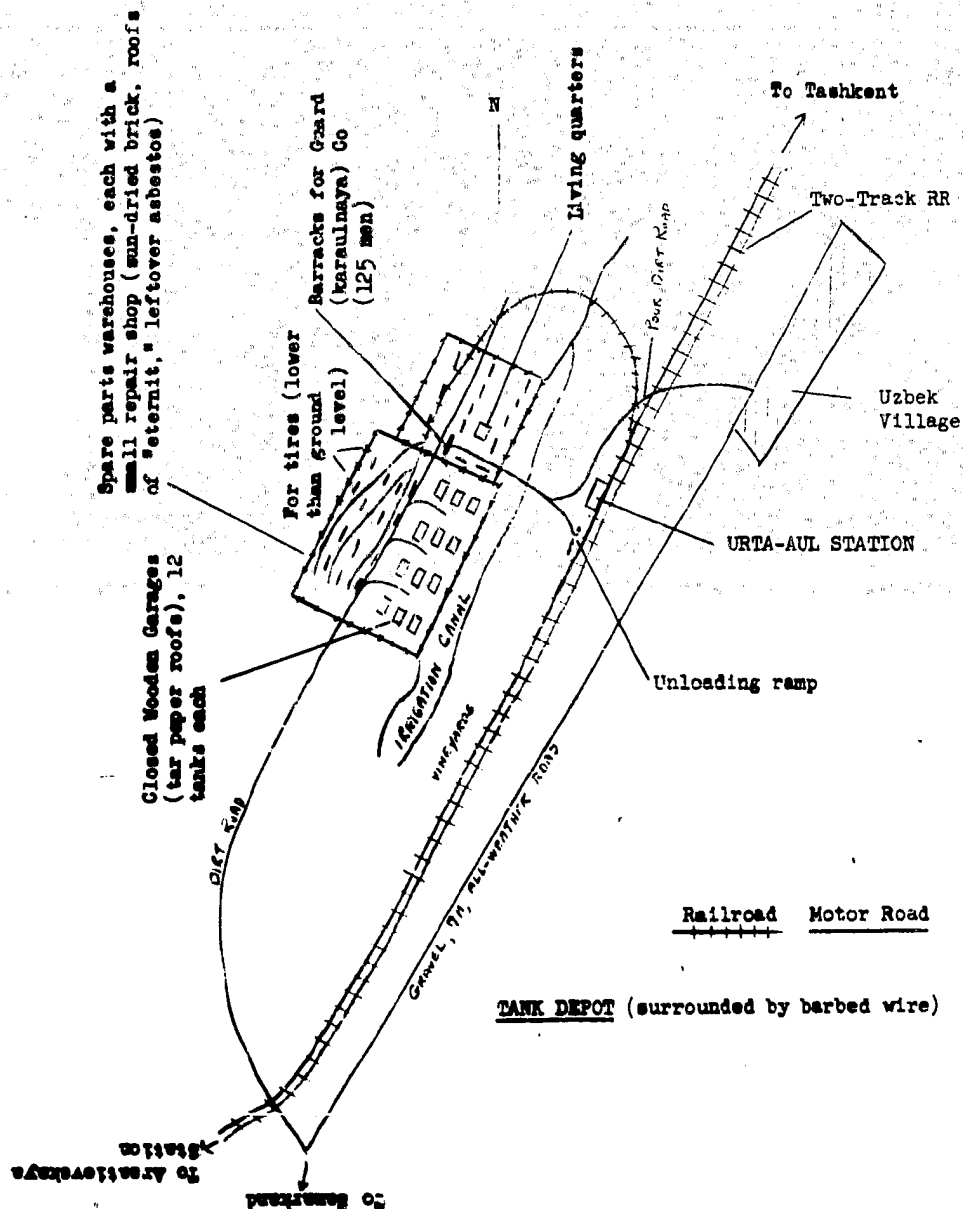
7. Military depot No 107 was the engineers depot. Its main section was located in the northeastern part of the fort in Tashkent. It had two other sections, both in Tashkent. One was on Sapernaya Ulitsa No 8, which stored picks and shovels in warehouses of sun-dried brick. Military depot No 107 had 100 thousand sets of entrenching tools. The other section was on the main street leading to the railroad station, on the corner of Ulitsa Zhukovskovo. It had a two-story burnt brick building with basement space, which was used to store such rubber equipment as boats used to support bridges. There were about 100 boats. The section in the fort consisted of five or six long warehouses made of sun-dried brick. They housed entrenching tools, water supply equipment, power saws, and other engineering equipment. There was a military staff of 15 men and about 40 civilian workers.
8. Military depot No 116, the communications depot, was also located in the fort in Tashkent. It had one other section, at Sapernaya Ulitsa No 3 in Tashkent, for storing radio equipment. The building of sun-dried brick was specially heated with outside furnaces, burning anthracite coal and wood. It was located in the yard of the quarters occupied by the independent radio battalion of the military district (otdelni radio-battalion okruga). The radio equipment of the communications depot and of the radio battalion were guarded by the same sentries. The depot in the fort stored telegraph and telephone equipment sufficient for the needs of the military district. Old warehouses of sun-dried brick were used. There was also some basement space for storing batteries. The military staff numbered about 15 men, plus about 10 civilian workmen.
9. Military depot No 40 was the armored force depot. The armored force (avtobronitankovoye vedematvo) was founded only in 1932. Its earlier activities had been under the engineers. The armored force in the military district was initially given five or six warehouses at Sapernaya Ulitsa No 8 in Tashkent, the same address where a section of the engineers depot was located. The armored force depot, which was at this location as of December 1939, had a small repair shop and stored spare parts, tires, 100 trucks, but no tanks. However, in 1937 [redacted] which was to have the same designation as the earlier depot mentioned above in this paragraph, and was scheduled to be completed in 1940. In December 1939 it was still only about half completed because of lack of sufficient funds for a more rapid rate of construction. It was located at the railway station of Urta-Aul, which did not handle freight. It was 17 kilometers southwest of Tashkent. There was nothing stored at the new tank depot as of December 1939 as it was still under construction. It covered 42 hectares and was designed to serve the whole military district. It was adequate for the needs of the district even in time of war. The sketch below indicates how the depot would look when completed.

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10. Construction on an air force depot was begun in 1938. It had not yet been designated by number, as of December 1939. It was scheduled to be completed in 1941. Up to 1938, there had been no such depot, except for the one at the place where the "avio-brigade" of the military district had its base and barracks. This unit was based at the military airfield in Tashkent, which was on the site of the old Czarist hippodrome in the eastern part of the city. The depot stored tires and spare parts. It had large repair shops, one old hangar and two new ones. The hangars accommodated small, single-engined aircraft.

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The "avio-brigade" of the district usually had 400 officers and four "escadrilles." One "escadrille" was made up of about 18 four-engine bombers. Three "escadrilles" were made up of 27 fighters (istribiteli) each. Two of these units had new Ilyushin aircraft and one had old U-2s. The new air force depot was located on about 16 hectares at the eastern edge of the military airfield. The 25 adjoining hectares were covered by an orchard, which belonged to the "avio-brigade." The depot was about one-third completed in December 1939. The buildings were to include: six warehouses of burnt brick for spare parts (the floors of all buildings were below ground level); a building to store tires; and six "bombokhranilishe" (bomb depositories - walls of burnt brick, concrete roofs covered by earth). There was also to be an "admingorodok" in the southern section of the depot grounds. There was to be a guard company (karaulniya rota) of 125 men, headed by a major. All offices, living quarters, and barracks were to be of burnt brick and to have two floors. A railroad spur line and a gravel surfaced motor road were built for the new depot. Construction work on the depot progressed fairly quickly, because it was desired to have a separate air force depot belonging to the military depot. The earlier depot belonged to the "avio-brigade." Plans called for an expansion of the district air force. The "Prodbaza" was about one and one-half kilometers south of the new depot. The military airfield was just north of the railway freight station. There were no personnel or equipment based at the depot as of December 1939.

11. Construction on the Chemical Service depot began in the spring of 1939 and was scheduled to be completed in 1942. A depot of this type had not existed previously in the district. All chemical equipment in the district was kept previously by the independent chemical company of the district (otdelnaya chimicheskaya rota okruga), stationed at Dzhambul (previously called Aulie-Ata and then Mirzoyan) in the Kazakh SSR. The company occupied a building which had housed a battalion in Czarist times. After completion of the new depot, the company was to move to the new location. The new depot was 120 kilometers south of Tashkent and one kilometer north of Leninabad (previously called Khodzhen). This city was 10 kilometers from the railroad. The depot was across the Syr Darya River from Leninabad, about 400 meters from the motor road. There was no bridge over the river, only an oar-propelled ferry which was also pulled by a rope. There were four small warehouses of sun-dried brick. Two of these were for storing poison gases; they were to be below ground level and to have filters. The other two were to house protective clothing and chemical equipment and weapons, such as flame throwers. There was also a guardhouse. The depot was not planned to accommodate much equipment, one reason being that transportation to that location was poor. There were no personnel stationed there as of December 1939. It was planned that the office staff and workers would live in Leninabad and the guards were to be drawn from troops in that city.
12. The military district depot for military maps was on Kuiluiskaya Ulitsa in Tashkent, in an area where there were numerous buildings occupied by the military. It was near the railway station. The large block in Tashkent which was devoted to military buildings was bounded by Kuiluiskaya, Zhukovskaya, and Gogolevskaya Ulitsa and Remeslenie Pereulok. The depot was behind the two-story building on Gogolevskaya Ulitsa occupied by the topographic section of the district. It was housed in a one-story building of burnt brick, with a roof of iron sheets, and with steam heat. Barbed wire was placed around the depot, which was guarded by two sentries. The building was erected in 1939. It housed only new, secret maps. Older maps were kept in the building occupied by the topographic section.
13. The medical supplies depot was small and dated from Czarist times. It was located in a one-story, burnt brick building on Gogolevskaya Ulitsa one block from the topographic section. Drugs and medicines were stored in this structure. Less perishable items, such as castor oil, were kept in two or three warehouses of sun-dried brick. Supplies were for use by both the medical and veterinarian services. There was a military staff of about five men to administer the depot, which was under the chief of the medical service of the district.

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14. There were no depots in divisions. The next lower echelon under the military district, whose depots I have described above, to have a depot was the separate or fairly self-sufficient unit (otdelnyi chast'), such as regiment, the independent chemical company, and the independent communications and engineers battalions. The depot of each such unit contained equipment which the unit used regularly, plus mobilization reserves.
15. The Central Asian military district also had military camps, barracks, casernes, and training centers. By these terms I mean the following:
- a) military camp (letni lager, ie summer camp) was an installation where military units, schools, and academies engaged in field training during the summer; each military district had one or more such district camps (okruzhnoi lageri); if a division did not use a district camp then this indicated that it had its own camp;
  - b) barracks (baraki) were buildings of light construction, or tents, located in the military camps and usually not occupied during the winter;
  - c) casernes (kazarmi) were permanent quarters of units used to house unit personnel in the winter and for training;
  - d) training centers (uchebnyi tsentri) were used to instruct reserve officers and to give refresher courses (kursi) for regular officers; for example, Solnechnogorsk (see [redacted]) primarily provided infantry refresher courses (akademicheskii kursi); and
  - e) officers' schools (voenni uchilishchi).
16. The Central Asian military camps (letni lageri) were:

- a) The one military camp of the district, called "Okruzhnoi Troitski Lager," was located 32 kilometers northeast of Tashkent along a motor road and railroad which led to the city of Chirchik (in 1932, [redacted] who built Dneprostroi, began construction on a dam and electric power station near this city; the dam probably is finished now and probably produces about 200,000 KW; a nitrogen plant is also located near Chirchik; this industrial area took over a small section of the northern part of the camp, entailing moving of the military school buildings). The military camp was devoted primarily to artillery activities, as it was to this location that all artillery units in the district came for summer training of three and one-half months. Live shells and long-range fire were utilized. The artillery would then go to a divisional summer camp for one month, where the area was smaller and therefore blank shells were used. Each year an infantry regiment, or at times an infantry division, was brought in to train with the artillery. The independent engineering battalion of the district (otdelni saperni batalion okruga) also trained with the artillery. The Tashkent Military Infantry School (Tashkentskoye Voennoye Pikhotoznoye Uchilishche), so designated beginning in 1936, used the camp from 1 May until 1 September. In 1937, a caserne was built to house permanently the independent tank battalion of the district (otdelni tankovi batalion okruga), which had 33 T-26 tanks. Tank garages were of concrete, dwellings of sun-dried brick, and the two-story clubhouse of burnt brick. One of the two artillery "polygons" at the camp had 14 or 15 directions of fire, utilized for training purposes, with ranges up to 13 or 14 kilometers. It was rolling land and excellent for tank training. There were bunkers for target control personnel. The other "polygon" adjoined the first and was in the northern part of the camp. It was even larger, about 10 km x 20 km and was utilized for training in mountain artillery fire. There were also numerous directions of fire. Fewer bunkers were used as mountains provided protection. Ranges were more than long enough to satisfy the six to seven kilometers' requirement for mountain artillery. The whole camp covered over 1000 hectares and paralleled the Chirchik River.

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The camp was west of the river. The two-artillery "polygons" extended north and south, were about 10 kilometers wide and about 25 long. The "polygons" were located between the Tashkent-Chimgan and Tashkent-Chimkent motor roads. The camp proper, just north of the Troitski "poselok" (settlement), extended for about four kilometers northward along the river up to the city of Chirchik. There were more tents than barracks. The latter were of sun-dried brick. There were also shelters for horses. The northwestern section of the camp area had a landing strip. There were no runways but the ground was hard and level. The strip was mostly used by U-2s, utilized as aircraft for artillery observers, but could accommodate larger planes. The military staff of about 40 for the two artillery "polygons" was stationed there all year. It was headed by a colonel of artillery.

- b) In addition, each division, including the cavalry divisions, had its own "letni lager" (summer camp).
17. The following list indicates the location of the more important casernes (kazarni) in the Central Asian military district and the units which occupied them (all the casernes were of one story and of sun-dried brick, except those at Kushka):
- a) Termez - base for two regiments of the Third Mountain Infantry Division, one mountain cavalry regiment, the horse artillery unit of a cavalry division, and, after 1939, one infantry division;
  - b) Ashkhabad - two regiments of the First Mountain Infantry Division, its headquarters, its artillery regiment, and, after 1939, one infantry division;
  - c) Kushka - a former Czarist fortress, Kushka was purely a military town; it also had a railroad station. One regiment of the First Mountain Infantry Division (which had four regiments) and one mountain cavalry regiment were based there. The casernes were built of stone and had one floor;
  - d) Merv - one mountain infantry regiment, the headquarters of a mountain cavalry division (which had three regiments), and two regiments of this division;
  - e) Fergana - headquarters of a mountain cavalry division with two of its regiments;
  - f) Stalinabad - headquarters of a mountain cavalry division and one of its regiments;
  - g) Samarkand - a complete mountain cavalry division;
  - h) Alma Ata - a mountain cavalry regiment, part of the division of this type headquartered at Fergana; and
  - i) Frunze - the motor vehicle battalion of the military district (avtomobilni batalion okruza - used to transport freight by means of trucks).

The most important concentrations of casernes were at Termez and Ashkhabad, as well as at Kushka.

18. Tashkent, as headquarters of the military district, had miscellaneous units stationed in the city. The main unit was the "avio-brigade" at the military airport. Other units were the heavy artillery regiment of the district, one NKVD mountain cavalry regiment, the independent communications battalion of the district, and the independent radio battalion of the district. There was an MVD school to train sergeants and also sergeants of frontier troops. The Military Infantry School (Voennoye Pikhotoynoye Uchilishe) gave a three-year course and graduated lieutenants. It was organized into three battalions, two of which were infantry and one for "politruks" (politichiskii rukavoditeli - political officers), who were, in this case, usually assigned to infantry units. There was also a School for Junior Lieutenants (Shkola Mladshikh Lieutenantov) which offered a course of six months duration. The rank of Junior Lieutenant in the Soviet Army was instituted only in 1939. The rank of Lieutenant Colonel was originated only in June 1940. Incidentally, no military refresher courses were offered in Central Asia, as for regular career officers.

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19. A training center (uchebni tsentr) was also located in Tashkent. It occupied a caserne which had formerly housed a Czarist Cossack regiment. It was next to the caserne used by the heavy artillery regiment. The training center was in the southeastern suburb of Kazachya Slabodka. The center was designed for attendance by infantry, artillery, and cavalry reserve officers. About 1000 or 1200 reserve officers per year attended the center, which operated all year. Each officer attended for three or four months. Each summer the activities of the center were transferred to the "Okruzhnoi Troitski Lager." The center had approximately 60 instructors and was headed by Colonel (fnu) Mazhai-Mozharovsky. Incidentally, the truck repair shops of the district were also located next to the training center. The shops were small, capable of performing only 10 major overhauls per month.
20. In 1939, a Military Machine Gun School (Voennoye Pulemotnoye Uchilishe) was founded in Alma-Ata. Its chief was Colonel (fnu) Filatov, deputy of General IE Petrov /see [redacted]. The school trained specialized officers of infantry regiments in the employment of machine guns, mortars, and artillery.

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